

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

FAST FACTS



PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Arizona Medical Marijuana Act (AMMA)
ADHS reports:

Qualifying patients (QPs) 37,598

Caregivers (CGs) 654

Minors 36

Dispensary agents 458

Dispensaries statewide: 62 licensed, 21
inspections pending as of 7/25/13

Maricopa County: 22

90% of cardholders now within 25 miles of
a dispensary-no longer able to cultivate
when card is renewed

As of June 5, 2013

Patient Age-groups

Minors:	36	
18 to 30 years	10,118	26.87%
31 to 40 years	7,594	20.18%
41 to 50 years	6,674	17.73%
51 to 60 years	7,943	21.11%
61 to 70 years	4,493	11.94%
71 to 80 years	661	1.76%
81 and older	115	0.31%

Male: 27,022 71.80%

Female: 10,612 28.20%

ADHS CUMULATIVE REPORT

BAD PUBLIC POLICY:

THE RISKS/COST TO SOCIETY

All marijuana is illegal under federal law. FDA approves medicine and has approved THC products rendering AMMA moot.

- Collateral health damage from ingesting 400 additional chemicals in MJ requiring costly medical attention/ impacting brain development;
- Driving hazards;
- Addiction/increased crime to support it
- Lack of standards and reliable quality control

CONDITIONS QUALIFYING A PATIENT

Cancer	738	1.96%
Hepatitis C	628	1.67%
Cachexia	41	0.11%
Seizures	271	0.72%
Glaucoma	339	0.90%
Sclerosis	13	0.03%
Alzheimer's	9	0.02%
Chronic Pain	27,316	72.58%
Muscle Spasms	511	1.36%
HIV/AIDS	204	0.54%
Crohn's Disease	200	0.53%
Nausea	360	0.96%
Two + conditions	7,004	18.61%
ADHS Cumulative Report as of June 5, 2013		

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WHAT WE KNOW:

The medical aspect is dubious: 70% of qualifying patients are men; (47%) are under the age of 40 and nearly 72% complain of chronic pain.

Just 24 physicians have handed out three-fourths of Arizona's recommendations.

Even though the AMMA includes certain ailments it may not be efficacious; for example the glaucoma treatment foundation states that:

"[t]he high dose of marijuana necessary to produce a clinically relevant effect on IOP in the short term requires constant inhalation, as much as every three hours. The number of significant side effects generated by long-term oral use of marijuana or long-term inhalation of marijuana smoke makes marijuana a poor choice in the treatment of glaucoma...."

On one hand the state is sanctioning loosely controlled access to marijuana and on the other the state is funding programs to help manage addictions. The costs to society are dispersed and enormous. (See Marijuana

Fast Facts, APAAC August 2013)



KPHO CBS 5 PHOENIX



"Medical" sends the message that pot is safe; teenage use will go up when seen as safe and down when believed harmful. Research: heavy teen use increase nearly 2x over 4 years from 2008, coinciding with pro-marijuana campaigns.

SEE STUDY @ DRUGFREE.ORG:

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"Is there conflict between state and federal law when it comes to marijuana...Absolutely, no question about that. However, we are operating under a program that was approved by the Arizona voters. We're complying and honoring the Arizona voters' request by setting up a dispensary system that was outlined in the initiative that they approved. Having said that, the feds don't like dispensaries.." Will Humble, ADHS Director.

AZ CAPITOL TIMES MAY 7, 2013

CHALLENGES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Taking marijuana across state lines is trafficking but under Full Faith and Credit states honor medical marijuana cards from other jurisdictions
- One out of 8 youths get their marijuana from a cardholder according to the ACJC 2012 Youth Survey
- Health issues in young children and adults who accidentally ingest, especially edibles
- **State v. Okun:** State Supreme Court declines to review the Appellate decision upholding the trial court order to return marijuana seized from Okun, a California cardholder, when entering Arizona without her card. The Yuma County Sheriff seeks to appeal to SCOTUS on the conflict with federal law by the order to return federal contraband.
- **State v. White Mountain:** State Supreme Court Appeal is pending from Court of Appeals upholding trial court finding that the federal conflict notwithstanding, the County must act on a zoning application for a potential dispensary.
- AMMA necessitates adding investigation and prosecution of **compassion clubs** to the to-do list.
- 2.5 ounces every two weeks must be assessed in the field.
- Cannabis Standards Institute told the AZ legislature that to treat MMJ as we do all medicine would require compliance with federal poison-control standards for pesticides and mold, third party testing, packaging and labeling.

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"Having a medical marijuana card does not entitle you to drive impaired." Jon Eliason, KPHO CBS 5 May 2013.

Medical Marijuana and DUI

Exclusion of the medical marijuana card as evidence and /or an affirmative defense is being litigated.

DUI impairment since the AMMA is on the rise in Mesa.

A recent Liberty Mutual survey found that most teenagers believe they drive better, or at least no worse, high on marijuana.

SOURCES

www.apaac.az.gov

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[ADHS http://www.azdhs.gov/medicalmarijuana/reports/AMMA statistics, April 2013](http://www.azdhs.gov/medicalmarijuana/reports/AMMA%20statistics%20April%202013)

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